

PATENT

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to a Final Office action dated September 30, 2005. Claims 1-41 were examined. Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 14-16, 27-29, 36 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,466,971 (hereinafter "Humbleman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,602,918 (hereinafter "Chen"). Claims 3 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humbleman and Chen as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Applied Cryptography (hereinafter "Schneier"). Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 17-26, 30-35 and 38-41.

Interview Summary

Applicants appreciate the time taken for the interview conducted on October 20, 2005. The participants were Aravind Moorthy, Syed Zia, and Steven Gilliam. Participants discussed the language of claims 1 and 27. Although the references of record do not disclose or suggest claims 1 or 27, Applicants agreed to amend the claims to further define the message specifications. In addition, Applicants agreed to amend claim 22 because a portion of the claim was missing, resulting in a curious antecedent basis error that had previously gone unnoticed. It was later discovered and relayed to Examiner Moorthy that the claim does not have an antecedent basis error. The original version of claim 22 did not have an antecedent basis error, and claim 22 has not been amended during prosecution. A portion of the text was inadvertently formatted as hidden text in the listing of claims in the Response filed on June 30, 2005 and in the print out used in the interview. There was no intention to amend claim 22 to remove a portion of the text, and there was no indication in the status or markings of the claim that the hidden text was to be removed. Hence, there is no need to amend claim 22 because claim 22, as it should appear on the record, is not missing the text.

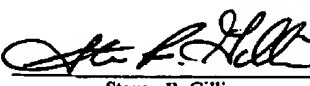
Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 14-16, 27-29, 36 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,466,971 (hereinafter "Humbleman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,602,918 (hereinafter "Chen"). Claims 3 and 13 were rejected to under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humbleman and Chen as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Applied Cryptography (hereinafter "Schneier").


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Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that the predefined message specifications indicate respective message formats specific to one or both of an application and a transaction, and claim 27 to recite that the predefined request message specification indicates a request message format specific to one or both of an application and a transaction. As discussed in the interview, none of the art of record discloses the claims. None of the art of record, standing alone or in combination, secures a data transaction across a security barrier by limiting transmission of messages across a security barrier to those messages that are validated against a predefined message specification that is specific to an application or transaction. Humpleman in view of Chen discloses a parser that checks an XML command message to determine if the message includes any syntax errors, and does not disclose securing a data transaction by validating messages against predefined message specifications that are specific to an application or a transaction.

In summary, claims 1-41 are in the case. All claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited. Nonetheless, if any issues remain that could be more efficiently handled by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,


Steven R. Gilliam, Reg. No. 51,734
Attorney for Applicant(s)
(512) 338-6320 (direct)
(512) 338-6300 (main)
(512) 338-6301 (fax)